

March 24, 1999

3229 '99 APR -5 P1:58

Michael Friedman, M.D.
Commissioner
U. S. Food and Drug Administration
Dockets Management Branch, Room 1-23
12420 Parklawn Drive
Rockville, Maryland 20857

Dear Commissioner Friedman:


Since there is a petition before the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and the U.S. Department of Agriculture that will help downers (animals too sick or injured to walk), I hasten to write to you to request **your** help by supporting this petition.

We know that only animals who reach the slaughterhouse alive can be used for human consumption, and, therefore, owners make more money selling live animals, no matter how ill or injured, than dead ones.

Please, in your capacity as Commissioner, take immediate steps to classify meat from downers as adulterated, and thereby affording owners no incentive ~~for~~ prolonging the suffering of downed animals. The issue of the animals' suffering is of prime importance, but this would also assist in being concerned about food safety risks.

Thank you for your prompt and humanitarian response to this issue by dictating that downers become classified as adulterated (via Docket No. 98P-0151/CP1).

Sincerely yours,


Mrs. Charlene P. Rucker
3292 Lakeside Avenue
Northbrook, Illinois 60062-5112

98P-0151

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